

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00
DLOS-09 OES-07 INT-05 /072 W
-----010200Z 009760 /72

R 311910Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 735
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
USDAO CARACAS
SECDEF
CMDT COGARD
CNO
SECTRANSPORTATION
COGARD ONSOD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1476

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TD, US
SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF AMEGA TRINIDAD

REF: (A) STATE 116537, (B) STATE 116538

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER REACTS FAVORABLY TO
POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD AND SUGGESTS
DETAILED DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO LOW KEY ARRANGEMENT CAN
BE HELD IN MID-JUNE. EMBASSY SUGGESTS MINOR
MODIFICATION OF FORMAL TEXT TO BE PRESENTED TO GOTT
AND ASKS CLARIFICATION OF SITE ACREAGE FALL-BACK
POSITION. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING THE EMBASSY'S FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR DESIRE TO
DISCUSS AN ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION
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OF OMEGA TRINIDAD, FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON INFORMED
ME ON MAY 27 THAT HE ANTICIPATED NO DIFFICULTY IN
COMING TO AN ARRANGEMENT FOR CONTINUING THE STATION
HERE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME.

2. DONALDSON STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF LETTING THE
1961 DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT EXPIRE AS PLANNED, AND I

NOTED OUR CONCURRENCE. HE SAID THAT FOR THE GOTT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE SUBSEQUENT OMEGA ARRANGEMENTS TO BE AS LOW KEY AND INFORMAL AS FEASIBLE, PERHAPS CONCLUDED THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THE GOTT SPECIFICALLY DID NOT WANT THE NEW AGREEMENT TO BE IN THE FORM OF A "TREATY" WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CONTROVERSIAL DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT, AND HE FELT THAT A SHORT-TERM ARRANGEMENT FOR OMEGA NEED NOT REQUIRE SUCH FORMALITY. I NOTED THAT WE HAD NO REASON TO MAKE A LARGE MATTER OUT OF THE OMEGA ARRANGEMENTS, AND THAT I FELT WE COULD HANDLE THIS IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD BE FELICITOUS FOR BOTH SIDES.

3. DONALDSON INFORMED ME THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS OF OMEGA ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO WAIT AT LEAST TWO MORE WEEKS, HOWEVER, UNTIL PERMANENT SECRETARY LENNOX BALLAH RETURNS FROM HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE OPENING WEEKS OF THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATING SESSION IN NEW YORK. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN BALLAH HAS RETURNED AND MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION HAS TAKEN PLACE.

4. COMMENT: DONALDSON'S REMARKS ARE A HIGHLY POSITIVE INDICATION THAT THE GOTT HAS DECIDED TO ACCEDE TO OUR WISHES TO EXTEND OMEGA WITHOUT ASKING ANY MAJOR QUIDS PRO QUOS. IT IS SOMEWHAT PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THE LATTER, BUT HIS ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO CONDITIONS WAS NOTEWORTHY. I RECOMMEND WE ACCEDE TO THE GOTT'S DESIRE FOR PLAYING THIS ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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LOW KEY WITHOUT FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OR UNDUE PUBLICITY. THE CONTINUITY OF OUR STATION ARRANGEMENTS AS WELL AS THE LIMITED AND TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE STATION CAN BE EMPHASIZED IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES.

5. UPON FURTHER REVIEW OF THE DETAILED MATERIAL IN REF (B) WHICH WE WILL BE PRESENTING TO THE GOTT WHEN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BEGINS, THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED ONE PHRASE IN SUB-PARAGRAPH (1) WHICH WE PROPOSE TO DELETE UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE. WE PROPOSE SPECIFICALLY TO DELETE ANY REFERENCE TO THE REMOTE MONITOR SITE. THE GOTT DOES NOT NOW PROVIDE A REMOTE MONITOR SITE AND WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN INJECTING THIS INTO THE AGREEMENT IN A MANNER IN WHICH IT COULD BE READ AS IMPOSING A NEW REQUIREMENT ON THE GOTT. THE REMOTE MONITOR A PIARCO AIRPORT IS CURRENTLY ARRANGED BY NAVAL ENGINEERING COMMAND, NORFOLK, THROUGH AN ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS. THE MONITOR IS LOADED IN THE PAN AMERICAN CARGO

HANGAR AT PIARCO AIRPORT 18 MILES EAST OF PORT OF SPAIN. UNDER TERMS OF CONTRACT WITH THE NAVAL ENGINEERING COMMAND, PAN AMERICAN INSTALLED THE MONITOR STATION AND PROVIDES THE SPACE AND ELECTRICITY NEEDED FOR AN ANNUAL FEE OF US\$500. GOTT IS NOT INVOLVED IN OPERATION AND MAY NOT ACTUALLY BE AWARE THAT REMOTE MONITOR SITE EXISTS. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT PHRASE "AND ITS ASSOCIATED REMOTE MONITOR SITE" BE DELETED; THAT THE PRESENT COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE MONITOR'S OPERATION BE CONTINUED; AND THAT THE GOTT BE SIMPLY REMINDED OF THE MONITOR'S EXISTENCE AND LOCATION DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE EXTENSION AGREEMENT.

6. IN REF (A) PARAGRAPH 5(D) THERE IS REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF THE OMEGA SITE REQUIRED BY THE USG TO APPROXIMATELY 300 ACRES. EMBASSY WOULD
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APPRECIATE SPECIFICATION OF WHICH 300 ACRES WOULD BE REQUIRED AS MINIMUM.

7. FOR SECDEF/ISA (REINERTSON): WE HAVE UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT TO LOCATE THESIS BY BARBADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER FORDE ON THE 1961 USG-BARBADISN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WAS REFERRED TO IN BRIDGETOWN 1081. LIBRARY AT TRINIDAD CAMPUS OF UWI HAS NO RECORD OF SUCH A THESIS. PERHAPS IT WILL BE FOUND AT CAVE HILL CAMPUS IN BARBADOS.
RICH

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-0101
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TD, US
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d562498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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